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Sep 4th 2018

Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

Internet access today has moved beyond the novel item it was 20-25 years ago and become an integral part of just about everyone's life. Just like the proliferation of print media did 200+ years ago, increased access to information is reshaping society. Just as the current state of technology and Internet access was mostly unforeseen even 20 years ago, so also is it still developing. How information access will shape our lives in another 20 years is unknown, but can be reliably expected to be profoundly different than it is today. Please help keep this developing future possible by NOT deregulating broadband access.

I live in rural southwestern Oregon, on the coast. I have lived in many parts of the country over the past 10 years and seen how leveling access to broadband services has allowed small communities to flourish. I consider myself fortunate to have fiber Internet access, where it used to be that DSL was the fastest I could get. This is possible NOT because of "Big Telecomm", for whom we are too small a market to be considered a worthwhile investment, but because of local providers. We now are getting access to medical care, telecommuting, information and entertainment options because local providers have developed affordable broadband access. Our tourism business, perhaps small by some standards but a big part of our local economic lifeblood, also thrives on fast dependable Internet access. Visitors today are accustomed to their Internet devices, and without connectivity these tourist dollars don't flow.

Access to information (and entertainment) is an essential part of society today. Please help keep the possibilities available to ALL people. Please do not end the current copper line sharing requirements. Please maintain the current regulated wholesale access to the Unbundled Network Elements (Copper Pairs) of the telephone network.

Please keep access to the main Internet Transport medium, the Public Switched Telephone System, (PSTN) available to all telecom companies, small and large alike, in support of entrepreneurs, rural communities, and all members of society. Thank you.

David Loehr